

The SPIRIT

DIANE RAVITCH LECTURES AT SAINT JOSEPH'S

by Francine Nittolo

On November 9, Dr. Diane Ravitch, well-known author, lecturer, and teacher appeared at St. Joseph's College. Dr. Ravitch addressed the subject of "Our Schools and Our Culture."

In the October 31 issue of The Tablet, S. Margaret Buckley stated, "We expect many high school and college students and faculty will be interested in attending this lecture. Dr. Ravitch is a highly regarded authority on the educational philosophy and trends seen in our local New York City school system and those throughout the nation." Sister Margaret was absolutely correct. Over 250 enthusiastic faculty, students, and guests filled the auditorium.

An Adjunct Professor of History and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, Dr. Ravitch most recently authored with Chester E. Finn, Jr., What Do Our 17-Year-Olds Know? Multiple-choice tests and a background questionnaire were administered to a representative national sample of 7,812 high school juniors and seniors in the spring of 1986. The survey found "serious gaps" in what 17-year olds know about their historical and literary heritage. Using the school standard of 60% as passing, the average student failed. Only one in ten achieved at least the 80% that would constitute an A or a B.

continued on p. 3

ON THE ROAD

TO PHILADELPHIA

by Paola Giardino

On the morning of November 15th, a bus, crowded with over thirty-five students, friends and parents, was on the road to Philadelphia. It is the Bicentennial of the Constitution, and here at St. Joe's, we celebrated it together. When we arrived after a comfortable ride across New Jersey and Pennsylvania, we divided into small groups with each pursuing its particular interests.

The first places that my group visited were the Carpenters Hall, site of the First Continental Congress meetings, and Franklin Court, the historical site where Benjamin Franklin's house once stood. There is an underground museum here and we saw an excellent film on the life of Franklin. In between our excursions, we stopped at a local diner and had breakfast (as we left Brooklyn at a very early hour!). It was great: the food in Philadelphia is really good!

During the afternoon, we toured the Liberty Bell Pavilion, Independence Hall, and the Old City Hall. The sight of the bell was really inspiring and gave to the word "liberty" an even more virtuous light. The highlights of Independence Hall and of Old City

continued on p. 3



EDITORIAL

by Joanne Ellison

This is the first issue for this academic year 1987-1988 of what we hope will be a bi-monthly publication of THE SPIRIT, SJC's newspaper. The newspaper in the past has been plagued by problems, biggest of all being apathy. The staff, however, is enthusiastic and determined to see that the current SPIRIT will succeed.

We hope to improve and expand your newspaper very soon, but it takes time and people who are willing to help, either with their services or ideas.



STAFF

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G.S. DIVISION DIARY

Meet your G.G. Division Committee!

Wanda Rodriguez-Santiago
 Jim Azarello
 Cherry Ann Jean
 Grett McBean
 Neil Moore
 Ada Pace

Student Policy Handbooks are currently available in the Library and General Studies Office. Kindly pick one up. Update your knowledge on your rights.

Your General Studies Division Advisory Council representatives are:

Kevin Price
 Wanda Rodriguez
 Charles Walker

Starting December 1st, G.S. Suggestion Boxes will be situated in the G.S. office and Library for your comments. If you have any thoughts or ideas about the school, we would like to know.

Congratulations to Bernice Dehaney, G.S. Junior currently working as a member of the New York Department of Health Lead Poisoning Control Team. Ms. Dehaney was instrumental in the Channel 2 investigation of New York's lead poisoning problem. Keep up the good work, Bernice.

Students who have not yet filed for graduation in June 1988, kindly do so as soon as possible.

Evaluations are important. Please fill them out honestly. These evaluations are kept in the strictest of confidence.

Happy "Stress-Free" Holidays

A NEW LIBRARIAN AT SJC

Mrs. Adelaide M. Smith has replaced Ms. Marianne Fahey as the Technical Services Librarian on the Brooklyn Campus. With a Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science from Pratt Institute, Ms. Smith is also a candidate for a Master's Degree in History from Brooklyn College.

Ms. Smith has had eighteen years of experience in library service, many of them spent at Adelphi University in Garden City. Interested in local history, especially Brooklyn and New York, she is a member of the Brooklyn Historical Society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SKI! SKI! SKI!

Are you looking for some winter fun? Join your SJC friends on January 8, 9, 10 for the annual SJC ski trip. The weekend will be spent in the Poconos at the Tamiment Resort. The cost is \$167. There are only twelve spots left. Hurry and contact either Bill Morrissey or Christian Parcell for further information.

RING DAY

Juniors are invited to be present with family and friends for the Ring Ceremony which will take place on Wednesday, December 2 at 6:00 PM in the College auditorium. Be sure to put the date on your calendar and watch the bulletin boards for specific information.

FASHION CLUB

The Fashion Club is looking forward to another successful show on February 27th. The theme will be a continuation of last year's theme and will be entitled "Unique Expressions."

Dr. Ravitch continued...

Dr. Ravitch and Dr. Finn suggested several changes in academic policies that could lead to improved learning in the two fields. These included less lecturing by teachers and more classroom discussion by students. Also, there should be more narrative material in history textbooks and more excerpts from great literature in English textbooks. In addition, they believe there should be stiffer college entrance requirements in the two fields.

Dr. Ravitch raised many pertinent questions for educators to consider. The administration, faculty, and students at St. Joseph's College were particularly happy to welcome her to the campus as she truly shares their love of learning and concern for the future of education.

Philadelphia continued...

Hall were respectively the Assembly Room and one of the original copies of the Magna Carta. (We couldn't believe our eyes!)

The trip was wonderful. The Rangers were really courteous and the historical buildings shone in the sun. The trees were surprisingly still filled with leaves of very bright colors.

"I felt the trip to Philadelphia was a worthwhile one because it was interesting to relive the past, while still being in the present; because it gives you an idea of how differently the people of that time lived as compared to how we live today," said Adriana Tomasino '91. In other words, it was worth waking up in time to make the 7:15 bus!!! Don't forget to develop those rolls of films, Adriana!

AN INTERVIEW WITH S. MARGARET BUCKLEY

by Karen Graham

In September, S. Margaret Buckley, formerly the Associate Dean, assumed her new duties as the Academic Dean of the Brooklyn campus. S. Mary Florence continues as the Academic Vice President of both campuses. The Spirit recently interviewed Sister to learn of her plans for St. Joseph's. The questions and answers follow.

Q. What does a dean (specifically the Dean of St. Joseph's) do?

A. Deans are responsible for the academic aspect of college life. At St. Joseph's, I am responsible for the academic program, academic standards and policies, supervision of the faculty, and the academic development of students. Let me add that these tasks are carried out in collaboration with many other people. My responsibilities cover the College of Arts and Sciences in Brooklyn. S. Jean Marie Amore is Dean of Arts and Sciences in Patchogue, and Dr. Tom Travis is Dean of the Division of General Studies. S. Mary Florence Burns, as Academic Vice President, is responsible for coordinating the academic life of the total College.

Q. As many of us know, you have been involved with the Education Department. What are your responsibilities in that area?

A. As a member of the Education Department, I still teach a course and supervise student teachers. Formerly, I taught several courses, including one at the Patchogue campus. As department chairperson, I also had overall responsibility for the Secondary Education program. I am very happy that S. John Raymond McGann has now taken on that role. However, I hope to continue to do some teaching because I believe that is the center of the College.

Q. How long have you been involved with St. Joseph's College? How have your roles changed over the years?

A. I came to St. Joseph's in 1969, having been a high school English teacher. While I was completing my doctoral work at Teachers College, Columbia University, I taught Education courses and supervised student teachers. I gradually became involved in administration when I was made Director of the SAY Program, which St. Joseph's conducted at Bishop Kearney High School for twelve years. As Assistant, then Associate Dean, I have been in charge of faculty development and evaluation, orientation of new faculty, and the academic concerns of individual students. Although I am not an expert on data gathering, I have often been involved in designing questionnaires (e.g., for entering students, for graduating students) to help us better understand the needs of our students and evaluate our effectiveness.

Q. What is the most important piece of advice you would like to pass on to the students of St. Joseph's regarding education?

A. My advice to students is to get all you can out of these four years. College gives you a special opportunity to expand your horizons and to grow in significant (and sometimes strenuous) ways so that your life will be forever enriched. Stan Nevins speaks of discovering possibilities. That happened to me in college, and I hope it happens to you.

Q. As a new Dean, have you planned any major changes?

A. I'd like to increase opportunities for faculty-student interaction, out of the classroom as well as within. That can contribute to the expansion I spoke of earlier. Second, I'd like to find ways to challenge students to work to their capacities. Some do so now, and it's wonderful to see, but I think we have some undeveloped potential here. Third, I'd like to attract more students

continued from p. 4

to SJC, especially to some of our smaller departments which are excellent.

Q. What do you consider the best characteristic of our College?

A. Our small size enables us to treat students as individuals, to create a supportive atmosphere, and to develop personal relationships between students and faculty and among students.

Q. As Dean of SJC's Brooklyn Campus, how closely do you work with the Patchogue Campus? What exactly is your relationship with Patchogue?

A. Brooklyn and Patchogue are parallel though not identical divisions of St. Joseph's. S. Jean Marie and I communicate frequently to share ideas and questions. Twice a year we have combined faculty meetings, and every month we have a meeting of department chairpersons, which brings together representatives of both campuses to talk about common concerns. Since some of our faculty teach on both campuses, it's important for us to work together.

Q. Now, for a personal look! What do you consider the best book you ever read? Do you like sports? If so, we know your favorite team must be the SJC Bears. Do you have any hobbies? What was your favorite subject in school?

A. I love to read and have a hard time naming my favorite book. I used to read a great deal of fiction; now I don't have as much time to read as I would like, and most of my reading is non-fiction... Though I'm not a big sports fan, I am a supporter of the Bears. I hope this will be a good year, and I plan to get to a game soon.... Most of my free time now is spent just being with family and friends. I recently became a grand-aunt and will be glad to show you pictures of my grand-nephew. This past June I traveled to the Holy Land and Italy. It was a wonderful experience.... My favorite subject in school was English.

CHAPEL PLAYERS' PRODUCTION

by Lisa Paone

During the weekend of November 20, Chapel Players once again put on a production, The Misanthrope.

The students did an excellent job on stage; however, the play itself was lacking in substance and action. This play was missing something that all the other productions by Doc Radus have always had--entertainment. The Misanthrope is classified as a comedy, but the humor did not strike the audience as the side-splitting funny humor everyone knows. The humor is an intellectual and philosophical one that not everyone can enjoy.

To be commended for fine performances are John Fitzgerald as Alceste, Edward Smallman as Philinte, and Sean Lehan as Acaste. These three really made their lines come alive, especially Sean. Karen McCormack as the female lead was also very good, as were Paola Giardino, Christine Satira, Chris Crisona, Bill Trabulsi, and Kimberly Lake.

In short this was a very well-directed play with good performances, but in this reviewer's opinion, it was not so entertaining as past productions.

ACT II FOOD DRIVE

Act II, our newest club, ran a very successful Thanksgiving Food Drive.

In addition to very generous supplies of food, students, faculty, and staff donated over \$200. St. Michael's St. Edward's parish was the beneficiary.

MOVIE REVIEW by Maria Maniace

DATE WITH AN ANGEL Rated: PG
 Starring: Michael E. Knight
 Emmanuelle Beart
 Phoebe Kates
 Directed by Tom McLoughlin

Jim Sanders (Michael E. Knight) is a nice guy. And what usually happens to nice guys? Do they "finish last"? Not in this movie they don't.

Jim's problems begin when his three best friends abduct him from his engagement party and more or less force a bachelor party on him. He wakes up the next morning only to find that an angel has crashed into his swimming pool from the sky. She is truly authentic! She possesses both a pair of big, white wings and a great deal of heavenly beauty. But her wing is broken and her speech is limited to bird calls only.

Jim becomes instantly fond of her as do vicious dogs which automatically roll over and wag their tails in her presence.

He has one small problem though. His fiancée, Patty, thinks Jim is cheating on her. Not to mention Patty's father, a big business tycoon who is also upset with him. But things only get worse.

Jim's friends push their way into his apartment, catch a glimpse of the angel, wings and all, and dollar signs begin to appear before their eyes.

But all Jim wants to do is help the angel to repair her wing so that she can go home.

If you like fairy-tales, then you should enjoy this movie. Phoebe Kates does a great job portraying the jealous, nutty fiancée; Emmanuelle Beart is extremely beautiful and depicts the angel well. Michael E. Knight is very likable, not to mention good-looking himself. I enjoyed this movie, but then again, I was always a sucker for Prince Charming winning the heart of his princess!

MUSIC

